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S E C R E T PARIS 005309

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TAGS: PTER KFTN TU GM FR UK

SUBJECT: PKK IN EUROPE: GOF ON SUSTAINING MOMENTUM

REF: A. ANKARA 4450  
1B. ANKARA 2539  
1C. BERLIN 988  
1D. PARIS 1893  
1E. LONDON 3122

Classified By: DCM KARL HOFMANN FOR REASONS 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (S) Poloff followed up informally August 4 with MFA Turkey Desk Officer Pascal Schuster to discuss potential French interest in a trilateral working group concept as brainstormed in REF A.

12. (S) Schuster explained that, to his knowledge, the French embassy in Ankara had not yet reported the meeting to Paris. In the absence of such a report, no internal GOF discussions of the idea were scheduled or had taken place.

13. (S) Schuster's preliminary response was to defend GoF determination and actions to apprehend and prosecute individuals and entities with ties to the PKK. The EU had designated the PKK a terrorist organization, he noted, and France wholly backed the designation, making action against the PKK a priority. Schuster asked that we give them ample time (the MFA is operating at minimum staffing with August vacation in full force) to discuss the idea with the MFA's Strategic Affairs Bureau and their embassy in Ankara.

14. (S) At the appropriate time, Shuster continued, and only when formally asked by the GOT, the GoF would talk to the GoT to consider the advisability of forming such a working group in Paris. Of course, Schuster stressed, the GoF is open in principle to any forum which would produce better sharing of information and coordination of activities.

15. (S) COMMENT: Schuster was very welcoming of any initiative that could lead to better information sharing. But for maximum effectiveness here, the Turks would need to take the lead in getting French buy-in and ownership, which we could then support. END COMMENT

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